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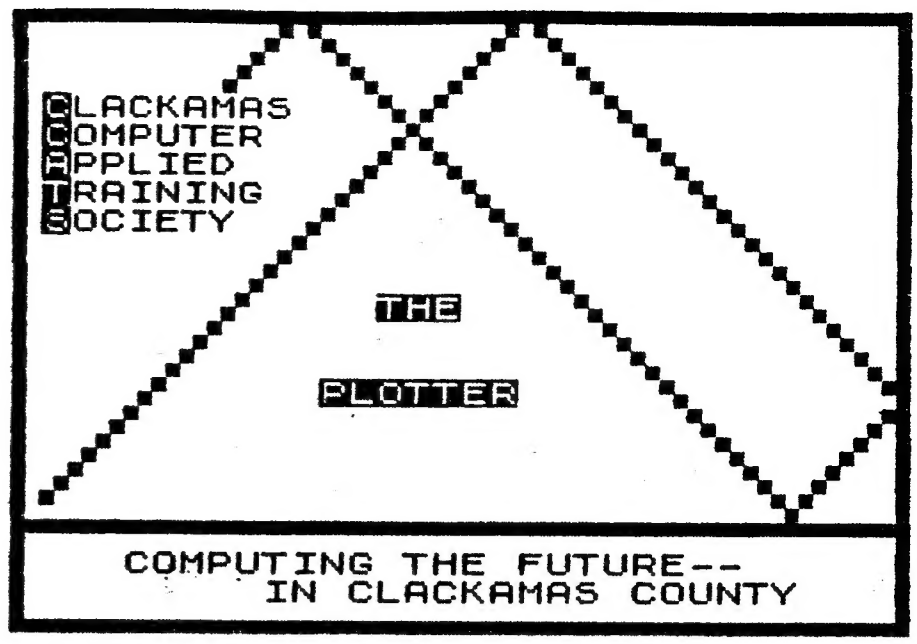
THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COMPUTER APPLIED
TRAINING SOCIETY
NEWS LETTER
****
VOLUME 10 ** NUMBER 3
******
MARCH 1992



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LIBRARIANS: BILL DUNLOP
ALICE DUNLOP

MEETING

The MARCH meeting will be:

on: FRI., MARCH 13, 1992

MEETING open at: 7:00 P.M.
in: BARLOW HALL, ROOM #112
CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MOLALLA AVE. OREGON CITY

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FEBRURARY MINUTES

The February 14th meeing was held at Room 112, Barlow Hall, Clackamas Community College. Eight members and 2 guests were in attendance.

Chairman Jack Armstrong called the meeting to order at 8:20 PM.

Under old business, Rod Gowen reported that our paid membership was almost up to last year's with dues payment by Duane Hewett. There was also a new member with previous subscriber Warren Tucker joining our group.

A surprise guest showed up, ex-member Troy Wilson attending for the first time in several years. Betty Bench came with husband Gaylen Bench.

The publishing project, The Best of THE PLOTTER, took up the remainder of the meeting time. Bill Dunlop recommended that all re-printed programs suitable for saving on 5 1/4 inch disks be saved on single side DD disks for the library. This would be separate from the material that would be on disk for Rod to use for printing.

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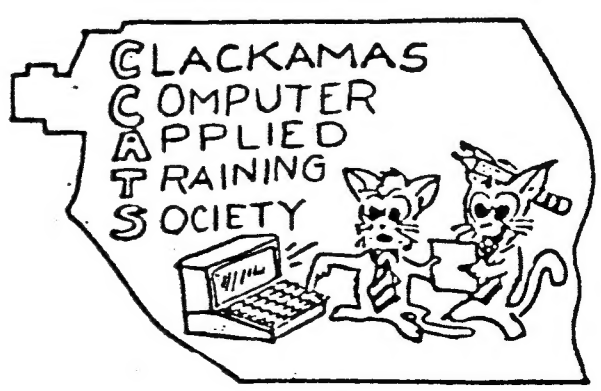

Continued from page 1
Rod had printed 4 possible cover designs so members could consider suitable cover content and arrangement. This generated considerable discussion from members. Rod will try again to see if a suitable design can be settled on.

Rod also mentioned the need to deside on subject and design of the title page, table of contents, section dividers, etc.

Jack strongly recommended materials for the covers and page material. With such expertise in the printing field available to us, we will see a top quality production.

Dick Wagner has printed several copies of a revised list of articles and programs so members desiring to help can be guided as to items they can work on.

Dick offered to have his son Kelly give a talk on the use of computers in his machine shop operation. He has office computers as well as machine tools operated by computers. This is far different from the ordinary office operation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

After the business mmeting, Gaylen Bench presented a logical use for computers, using a well known program in the field of geneology.

Dick Wagner
Secretary

BITS & BYTES

by: Rod Gowen

In this column I try to bring you the latest and complete information and news available to me regarding the world of TS computing. One way that I can accomplish this is if I have the support of you, the reader, in collecting news that may be of interest to other readers. If you have any news, rumors or other tidbits of information that fits this description, why not send it along? We will be watching!

LOGICALL V4.8 IS NOW IN---

I just received version 4.8 of Bob Swoger's fine front end for LKDOS users. Seems as though there is still some life out there in T/S land after all! I am glad to see that BOb is still working with the 2068 and is willing to pass on his expertise the T/S field. I can only hope that he will be around for a long time to come.

DUES! DUES! DUES!-

ONE LAST REMINDER!!!!

Have you paid your dues? If you or someone you know has not paid his dues for 1992 and you know that that person would like to remain a member in good standing of CCATS and continue to receive THE PLOTTER, please do him a favor and remind him to get the money to us as soon as possible. $20 will keep you posted and active on our mailing list.

"THE BEST OF"-PROJECT:

The project continues--- At the February meeting we discussed the project a bit more. The cover to the book was the topic of discussion this time. Several samples were on display and recommendations were made on how they could be improved upon. There will be some new samples incorporating some of the changes at the next meeting. There should also be a few samples of the section divider pages as well. Hope to see as many of you there as possible. Come on out and help with the project! After all, This is YOUR club and we NEED your input!

GENEALOGY DEMONSTRATION GIVEN--

at the last meeting. Those that looked on as GAYLEN BENCH showed us how the program worked and told us just what was available from the world's largest data base of family history and geneology were impressed with the information. If you missed it and would like to hear about this subject, feel free to give us a call and Gaylen will be glad to answer your inquiries.

That's if for now!
See you next time. . .

SPEAKING OUT!

by: Rod Gowen

I know that I have probably been on this soapbox before and will most likely be on it again, but I have to say what's on my mind once in awhile.

At our February meeting, one of our members, Gaylen Bench, gave a demonstration of a genealogy program that is available to the general public from the LDS church. If you don't already know it, the Mormon church has the world's largest data base of family history and genealogical information. The program, Personal Ancestral File, is also available to the general public at a nominal charge. For those of us who attended the demo, it turned out to be an interesting experience and some of us even ordered a copy of the program for our own use.

This is all leading up to my point--that being the seeming lack of interest within our little group for these sort of special interest demonstrations. I seem to remember back to the time we gave a demo of the use of modems, not once, but twice, and the same thing occurred. The interest seemed to be there when the subject of having a demo was first brought up, but when the time came to attend the demo, very few cared to attend. This time was no different. We asked at least a couple of times if there would be any interest in the subject and we received a hearty "yes". On the night of the demo there were about 9 or 10 folks at the meeting and only 4 stayed for the demo!

My ultimate point is, why would any one of our group want to put on a special demo on any subject if he or she can look forward to this kind of support for their efforts? I know that I would be hard pressed to find it in myself to come up with one. I realize that this group is not the ONLY interest for many of our members, but I would think that 3 hours a month is not a lot to ask of our members. 3 uninterrupted hours of your FULL attention is the least the group should be able to expect from each of our members. I know that there are a few of us that give upwards of 20 hours a month to CCATS. Why? Probably because we think that our contribution can make a difference to someone who may need our help or advise. Isn't that why CCATS exists? If not, then why? As in all groups of this type, there is a core of hard working members who shoulder 60-80% of the work involved and the other members are sort of "along for the ride". I don't mind that part of it. I only lose hope when I see a member who has not offered to help in the past take it upon himself to do so and then to have the majority of the group apparently "turn their backs" on his efforts. I cannot help but to discourage him from offering to help again in the future. It also sends a signal to others who might have offered to help that they may just be wasting their time. I could not blame them. If we have someone offer to give a demo, I feel it is only fair to let them know up front what kind of interest there is in the subject to be discussed. If only one or two folks show any interest then it may to their advantage to get together with the member offering the demo to do it among themselves and save the groups' time for whatever is deemed to be more important.

Another way to do it would be to have the demo or discussion BEFORE the business meeting and thereby eliminating the possibility of a long running meeting as a cause of the apparent "lack of interest" which may only be a "lack of time"(?) for those that tend to leave early. Either way, we should take up this subject at a future meeting to clear up what may be, on my part, a misconception.

I hope that this will cause some thought to be given to this subject. I want our group to grow. I also would like to see more active interest in the activities of the group. If you have something to say, on this or any other subject of interest to the group as a whole, please use this forum. It is meant to be used by and for the group.

the plotter

pc page

by: Rod Gowen

I want to take you back a few months this time. Remember when I first talked about batch files and gave you my little GO.BAT? Well, I am back to give you an update to that article. I have made a lot of use of this small batch file since I last wrote about it. It is now a basic small toolkit of sorts. I find it very useful when operating from the DOS prompt. I have several very fine utility packages including the likes of JADU and XTREE, but it takes time to load them and there are times when you do not need all of the functions that they offer. These are the times I make use of this little batch file to do what I want. I am including a full listing of the basic sections of the file. I have about twice as many lines in my own version, but a lot of it is set up for my own system and would not work on your system. Take a look at the following listing and I will be back to explain it afterwards.

```
@echo off
cls
if "%1"=="" goto ERROR
goto %1

:FSD
FMT.BAT
QUIT

:DF
DEL %1
QUIT

:SL
SELECT LIST (*.*)
QUIT

:SCA
SELECT COPY (*.*) A:
QUIT

:SCB
SELECT COPY (*.*) B:
QUIT

:SM
SELECT MOVE (*.*)
QUIT

:SE
SELECT SEDIT (*.*)
QUIT
```

```
:ERROR
echo.
echo.
color blink bright white on black
echo     Please enter GO (batchname) [variable(s)]
color bright white on black
echo.
echo     Choose From:  DF       (DELETE FILE)
echo.                    FSD    (FORMAT SYSTEM DISK)
echo                      SL     (SELECT ALL FILES IN DIR TO V
echo                      SCA     (SELECT FILES TO COPY A:)
echo                      SCB     (SELECT FILES TO COPY B:)
echo                      SM      (SELECT ALL FILES TO MOVE)
echo                      SE      (SELECT A FILE TO EDIT)
echo.
echo.
echo.
drawbox 0 0 13 60 2 bright white on red
```

The first section looks for a variable input after the name of the batch file on input. If you enter the command: GO <ENTER> this section will send you to the :ERROR trap section of the batch. You must enter the name of one of the "labels" after the GO.

The first "label" as the subroutine titles are called, is :FSD and it will format a 1.44M disk to 720K using another batch file called FMT.BAT. The next one is :DF which will delete a file. Then we have :SL to allow one to select a file to view from all files in the directory you are in. The :SCA and :SCB are used to copy files from the directory you are in to either drive A: or B:. The :SM is used to move files from the directory you are in to any destination you cheese. On this one you must enter the command like this: GO SM A: B: and you will be allowed to select the files you want moved. We now come to the :SE which calls up a program called SEDIT (for SCREEN EDITOR) and allow you to edit any ASCII file on the list that is brought up by the SELECT command from the directory you are in. alone are worth the cost of the upgrade to me!

The final part of the batch file is the :ERROR label. In this section I have defined the screen displayed if you do not enter the proper parameters. NOTE: I WANT TO MAKE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THIS PARTICULAR BATCH FILE REQUIRES 4DOS.COM TO OPERATE! The very last line of the file draws a box around the entire "menu" of choices. I think that this method of listing the possible selections gives one a chance to jog your memory regarding what each of the abbreviated selections actually does. The color lines (fourth and sixth lines) cause the line between to "blink" or "flash" and turn it off again.

Here, then, is a good base to build on. If you want to, you can add any standard .EXE, .COM or .BAT command to this batch file. If you c have 4DOS, you can still do a lot of the same things except that y be a bit more limited. As I said before, I have 4DOS available as shareware package for ALL DOS versions, including MS-DOS V5.0.

If any of you have written a batch file and would like to share it with our readers, PLEASE!, by all means, send it to me and I will put it in a future column! If you have questions or comments I would like to hear from you. I know that this is supposed to be a "PC PAGE", but I feel that this file will be worth the extra space to those of you who are into MS-DOS.

'Till next time, hope you enjoy your computer!

++

LLIST GRAPHIC CHARACTERS

I am not aware of any program that will properly LLIST Sinclair graphic characters or user defined characters. The need for such a method became apparent as we got into the mechanics of producing a book containing many of the articles and programs from 9 years of publishing our newsletter, THE PLOTTER. A review of programs containing graphic characters printed with a 2040 printer pointed to the need for listings printed with better quality than this little printer is capable of.

I investigated a method for screen dumps that came to mind, one that I use for printing the graphic at the top corner of our news letter. I had not used it for printing screen dumps of listings before. The idea simply explained, any TS 1000-1500 -2068 program containing graphic symbols can be typed and run on the 2068 computer as long as the program does not use the graphic symbols in terms of their codes (visually graphic in the listing), and the graphics are identical in all of these computers. Recall that there are some TS 1000-1500 graphic characters not duplicated on the 2068. One method of obtaining some of the TS 1000 graphic characters is to design them as a user defined graphic. Once a listing is typed, just save as SCREEN$s, a screen at a time, assigning a different name for each SCREEN$. Thus 23 screen lines are saved at a time.

The key to this method is to use Jack Dohany's GYPSY or SD9 screen driver programs. These programs provide for selection of many variables such as left margin, line length, line spacing, number of columns to copy, number of lines to copy, which group of lines, and density of printing, to name a few. Load a SCREEN$ by name into the screen driver program, set the variables, and copy. The next SCREEN$ is loaded and the process repeated as many times as it takes to copy the whole listing. Once the variables are set they do not change.

By trial and error I found that I could very closely duplicate the line spacing and line length to that of my 2040 printing. The printing was nice and dark and dots from the dot matrix printer were well blended. The Sinclair graphic characters duplicated nicely.

At this time a couple of minor problems have not been solved. At the end of each screen copy the printer advances one line, giving an emply line. This is not objectionable but it would be nice not to have it. Possibly the way I have defined the number of lines has

Continued from page 6

some such effect. The duplication of the 2040 line spacing gives a problem of having enough separation between lines for cutting and pasting without cutting into a line.

The 2040 printer gives a line spacing of 0.12 inches, or 8.3 lines per inch. This is necessary to properly print graphic images without white lines. A standard line is 6 lines per inch which is 0.167 inchers per line. The 2040 prints about 38% more lines per page, or about 82-83 lines in a 10 inch length.

Using my suggested method produces a very clean dark listing, making it easier to copy a listing. I am inclined to believe that this would be an improvement looked upon with favor by any of the users of our book, THE BEST OF THE PLOTTER. The following listing for the front page graphic of our newsletter will show the quality of the product. A word of caution-- readers who may wish to try to duplicate our graph may not find it produces an identical image unless Dohany's programs are used and the same changes are made in certain variables.
Printing with COPY on a 2040 printer may produce a similar image.

Dick Wagner

```
  10 PRINT AT 0,0;"▛▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▀▜"
  20 FOR n=1 TO 17
  30 PRINT AT n,0;"▌ ";AT n,31;"▐"
  40 NEXT n
  50 PRINT AT 18,0;"▙▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▟"
  60 FOR n=19 TO 20
  70 PRINT AT n,0;"▌ ";AT n,31;"▐"
  80 NEXT n
  90 PRINT AT 21,0;"▙▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▄▟"
 100 PRINT AT 1,8;"▞ ▚     ▞ ▚"
 110 PRINT AT 2,7;"▞   ▚   ▞   ▚"
 120 PRINT AT 3,1;"█";AT 3,1; OVER 1;"C"; OVER 0;"LACKAMAS"
 130 PRINT AT 3,13;"▚▞        ▚"
 140 PRINT AT 4,1;"█";AT 4,1; OVER 1;"C"; OVER 0;"OMPUTER"
 150 PRINT AT 4,13;"▞▚          ▚"
 160 PRINT AT 5,1;"█";AT 5,1; OVER 1;"A"; OVER 0;"PPLIED"
 170 PRINT AT 5,12;"▞ ▚            ▚"
 180 PRINT AT 6,1;"█";AT 6,1; OVER 1;"T"; OVER 0;"RAINING"
 190 PRINT AT 6,11;"▞    ▚            ▚"
 200 PRINT AT 7,1;AT 7,10;"▞      ▚          ▚"
 210 PRINT AT 7,1;"█";AT 7,1; OVER 1;"S"; OVER 0;"OCIETY"
 220 PRINT AT 8,9;"▞ ";AT 8,18;"▚"
 230 PRINT AT 8,1;"USERS";AT 9,6;"   ▞ ";AT 9,19;"▚         ▚"
 240 PRINT AT 10,7;"▞ ";AT 10,13;"█████";AT 10,13; OVER 1;"THE"; OVER 0;AT 10,20;"▚         ▚"
 250 PRINT AT 11,6;"▞ ";AT 11,21;"▚         ▚"
 260 PRINT AT 12,5;"▞ ";AT 12,22;"▚         ▚"
 270 PRINT AT 13,4;"▞ ";AT 13,11;"███████████";AT 13,11; OVER 1;"PLOTTER";AT 13,23;"▚         ▘"; OVER 0
 280 PRINT AT 14,3;"▞ ";AT 14,24;"▚       ▖";AT 14,31; OVER 1;"▘ "; OVER 0
 290 PRINT AT 15,2;"▞ ";AT 15,25;"▚    ▞ "
 300 PRINT AT 16,1;"▞ ";AT 16,26;"▚ ▞ "
 310 PRINT AT 17,1;"▘ ";AT 17,27;"▚▞ "
 320 PRINT AT 19,4;"COMPUTING THE FUTURE--";AT 20,9;"IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY"
```

-NOTICE-

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